(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government to such demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) According to available information, an "Angrezi Hatao Sammelan" was held at Indore from the 11th to 13th August, 1990. There is, however, no change in the official language policy of the Central Government as laid down in the Constitution and the Official Languages Act.

Representation of Akhil Bhartiya Swatantrata Sangram Sainik Sangh, Pune

3293. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Akhil Bharatiya Swatantrata Sangram Sainik Sangh, Pune, has approached to Government for certain relief measure to the Goa freedom fighters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the suggestions made by the above mentioned Sangh; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes Sir, A representation dated 6.4.90 had been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) Mainly, it contains the suggestion that the benefit of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension be extended to all the bonafide Goa freedom fighters, irrespective of the fact whether or not they have the minimum suffering of six months' imprisonment/absconsion, ten cane strokes, etc. prescribed under the scheme for grant of the aforesaid pension.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme does not envisage grant of pension to every freedom fighter. Such pension is paid only to those freedom fighters who have undergone the minimum suffering in connection with the freedom struggle, prescribed under the Scheme. It is felt that the same criteria for grant of Central pension should be applied to Goa freedom fighters as are applicable to other Indian freedom fighters.

Abetment of drug trafficking by Pak Army along Rajasthan border

3294. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Indian Express dated 20th August, 1990 under the caption 'Pak army abetting drug traffickers along Rajasthan border'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures Government are taking to control it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the news item, the information regarding involvement of Pak Army officers in drug trafficking has been gleaned from newspapers/journals in Pakistan and abroad. Interrogation of apprehended smugglers also indicates likelihood of their involvement in drug pushing into India.

The strength of BSF together with more border-out posts has been increased. Additional observation post-towers have been constructed. BSF have also been equipped with additional vehicles for intensive patrolling and provided with sophisticated equipment like binaculars and night vision devices. Wire-fencing and flood lighting has also been provided in some selected stretches in Ganganagar-Bikaner sector along the Rajasthan border. In addition, the intelligence network has been activated and special intelligence operations have been organised by BSF to intercept intruders and seize drugs and arms/ammunition being smuggled into India.